

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **August 8, 2006**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6

CONSENT: **X**

REGULAR:

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Appropriation of Funds for the Child Interview Center**

RECOMMENDATION: Amend the FY 2007 City/Federal/State Aid Projects Fund Budget and appropriate \$20,220 fully funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health and Human Services to continue the development of a Child Interview Center at the Human Services building. The purpose of the Child Interview Center is to address the significant needs of severely physically and/or sexually abused/neglected children in Lynchburg.

SUMMARY: Reports of child sexual abuse and severe child physical abuse are met with an immediate, coordinated, multidisciplinary response in Lynchburg. A Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) of highly trained Child Protective Services Investigators, Police Department Investigators, Forensic Nurse Examiners, representatives from the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Victim Witness advocates, and mental health professionals was formally established in 2002.

The goal of the Child Interview Center is to provide the severely physically and/or sexually abused/neglected child with a neutral, friendly place in which he/she can disclose the nature of the abuse/neglect to one MDT member. Other MDT members observe the interview via closed circuit television. In this way, the child does not have to endure the trauma of multiple interviews by different interviewers attempting to secure the same information.

The MDT has been awarded a second year grant of \$20,220 to further develop the Child Interview Center and the MDT staff who are involved with children through the Center. The Child Interview Center opened for use in May 2006. Staff and MDT members who carry responsibility for investigating and managing these cases need additional training to ensure that their skills continue to improve and to develop additional skills. The additional funding will be used for this training as well as to purchase additional literature, enhanced software to assist with the work of the Child Interview Center, and additional supplies to be used by the MDT and the children are that are served in the Center.

PRIOR ACTION(S): None

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no local cost for this grant. This second year funding was made available to awardees of grants in FY 2006.

CONTACT(S): Mark Johnson, Director of Social Services, ext. 5803

ATTACHMENT(S): Resolution

REVIEWED BY: bms

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED That the FY 2007 City/Federal/State Aid Projects Fund Budget is amended and \$20,220 is appropriated with resources of \$20,220 from the Virginia Department of Social Services to continue the development of a Child Interview Center located at the Human Services Building to address the significant needs of severely physically and/or sexually abused/neglected children in Lynchburg.

Introduced:

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

093L